

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

CINCUSAFE

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

USLOSACLANT

CINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1385

E.O. 11652: GDS 12/31/80

TAGS: MCAP, NATO

SUBJ: NEGOTIATIONS FOR COLLOCATED OPERATING BASES

REF: STATE 43006 NOTAL

SUMMARY: LACK OF OPERATING BASES WOULD HAMPER EMPLOYMENT OF
US REINFORCING AIRCRAFT AND PLANNING FOR THEIR PROTECTION.
ACTION IS REQUIRED TO SPEED UP NEGOTIATIONS FOR COLLOCATED
OPERATING BASES IN THE ALLIED COMMAND EUROPE FOR US REIN-
FORCING AIRCRAFT COMMITTED TO NATO. NEGOTIATIONS FOR COL-
LOCATED OPERATING BASES (COB) IN THE FRG AND THE NETHERLANDS
SHOULD RECEIVE FIRST PRIORITY. MISSION PROPOSES TO EMPHASIZE
WITHIN THE DPC THE NEED FOR ALLIES TO COMMIT BASES FOR USE BY
BRIEFING BY USAFE TEAM TO US AUGMENTATION AIRCRAFT. BRIEFING
BY USAFE TEAM TO EWG/AND MC MAY ALSO BE USEFUL. REQUEST GUIDANCE.
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END SUMMARY

1. DURING THE DEC 7 DPC, MINISTERS AGREED TO EXPAND
SACEUR'S AIRFIELD PHYSICAL PROTECTION PROGRAM TO INCLUDE US

RAPID REACTION AIRCRAFT (M PLUS 3) THROUGHOUT ALLIED COMMAND EUROPE (ACE). HOWEVER, THE UK HAS NOT YET MADE A POLITICAL DECISION ON SACEUR'S PROGRAM FOR AIRCRAFT SHELTERS IN THE UK EXCEPT FOR US F-111S. ADDITIONALLY, BASING AGREEMENTS FOR SOME OF THE RAPID REACTION (M PLUS 3) AIRCRAFT ARE STILL NOT COMPLETE IN THE FRG AND NETHERLANDS. UNTIL AGREEMENTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THESE AIRCRAFT, LONG LEAD TIME PLANS FOR AIRFIELD PROTECTIVE MEASURES CANNOT BE COMPLETED. NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE COLLOCATED OPERATING BASES SHOULD THEREFORE RECEIVE URGENT ATTENTION.

2. WE CAN IDENTIFY SEVERAL FACTORS CAUSING THE NEGOTIATIONS TO LAG:

A. THE NETHERLANDS IS WITHHOLDING BASING DECISIONS PENDING APPROVAL OF THEIR WHITE PAPER IN EARLY SPRING. IN ADDITION, SINCE NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE ON AN F-104 REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT, NOR ON THE ROLE OF THIS AIRCRAFT, UNCERTAINTIES EXIST AS TO THE NETHERLANDS' BASING NEEDS.

B. IMPLICATIONS OF AIR FORCE SPECIALIZATION, FACILITY COST, BASE UTILIZATION, AND F-104 REPLACEMENTS FOR THE FRG AND NORWEGIAN AIR FORCES ARE ALSO DELAYING AGREEMENT ON COLLOCATED OPERATING BASES IN THOSE COUNTRIES.

C. NEGOTIATIONS ARE LAGGING ELSEWHERE IN ACE BECAUSE OF COST AND POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS. UNTIL DECISIONS ON THESE ISSUES ARE MADE, ALLIES ARE RELUCTANT TO COMMIT CERTAIN OPERATING BASES TO THE US.

3. IN ORDER TO SPEED UP NEGOTIATIONS, MISSION RECOMMENDS THE US AGAIN URGE, WITHIN THE DPC, THAT ALLIES PROVIDE ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING COLLOCATED OPERATING BASES FOR US REINFORCING AIRCRAFT.

4. MISSION UNDERSTANDS USAF IS PREPARING A BRIEFING ON COLLOCATED OPERATING BASES THAT MAY BE USEFUL HERE IN FURTHERING US OBJECTIVES. MISSION SUGGESTS THE USAF BRIEF-
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ING BE TAILORED FOR PRESENTATION TO EWG EITHER BEFORE OR AFTER OUR INTERVENTION IN THE DPC SUGGESTED ABOVE. BRIEFING COULD ALSO BE OFFERED TO MILREPS OF COUNTRIES PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH THIS MATTER. REQUEST WASHINGTON GUIDANCE. RUMSFELD

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THE HAGUE
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